

CITY OF RIVERSIDE

BE A PART OF IT

A P R O G R E S S R E P O R T O N G E N E R A L P L A N 2 0 2 5

Be a Part of Realizing Riverside's Vision

Join us at the September 13th Citizens' Congress



Help us decide *our future!* Citizens' Congress

- September 13, 2003
 - California Baptist University
 - 8432 Magnolia Ave.
(see back page for map)
 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Interactive open house
 - Drop in anytime, stay as long as you like
 - Free food and drink

For more information, visit:
www.ci.riverside.ca.us
and click on the General Plan icon.

During the summer of 2002, hundreds of Riverside residents offered thousands of comments as part of "Visioning Riverside."

This community visioning process gave voice to the concerns and hopes of our community—and offered a chance to meaningfully influence City decision-making.

Now it is time to make our vision a reality as we update our General Plan.

The General Plan is Riverside's foundation of policies and action steps that touch nearly every part of our lives. At the Citizens' Congress, we'll ask you to make choices among different alternatives on issues such as transportation, housing, and parks and recreation.

Here is a summary of "Visioning Riverside's" themes and how they relate to the General Plan.

How We Live *The Vision: We empower neighborhoods. We listen to each other and pay attention to the details because it matters. Neighborhoods enable the City and residents to work together to solve the needs of all.*

What will Riverside look like in 2025? In what different ways can we accommodate our fair share of regional growth? We'll ask you to look at and weigh in on examples of the types of housing that could result from the new General Plan. What locations are best for new housing? How can we preserve and improve the quality of our unique neighborhoods?

How We Get Around *The Vision: Riverside has responded to the traffic challenge by becoming a more self-contained city. Residents have easy access to an efficient, multi-option transportation system.*

Riverside has not yet achieved its transportation vision. One of the primary concerns expressed by citizens is how we get around. At the Citizens' Congress, we'll ask you to offer opinions on how we can better get around in the future. How can we better utilize alternative modes of transportation like trains, buses, and bicycles?

How We Work *The Vision: Riversiders pursue the American Dream. We focus on creating economic development opportunities that provide high skilled, high paid employment for all members of our community.*

Every day, thousands of Riversiders leave the City to go to work, often making long-distance commutes to Orange and Los Angeles counties. More high-paying jobs in Riverside would help keep many of us closer to home, with more time for our families and our community. How do we make this a reality?

How We Learn *The Vision: Excellence in education is the key to economic growth. Riversiders work together to achieve quality education at all levels.*

Riverside's schools, colleges, universities, and libraries offer benefits beyond education, including job growth and an enhanced community identity. How can we draw upon these resources to realize broader goals? What kinds of educational programs will suit your needs?

How We Play *The Vision: Riverside is an oasis. The City combines trees, water, and the arts to create a distinctive comfortable gathering place that enriches the lives of residents and visitors alike.*

Riverside is the cultural center of the Inland Empire. Are the City's cultural and recreational features, both public and private, meeting our diverse needs and desires? We'll ask both adults and children for their favorite places for fun, just hanging out, or learning something new. If these places aren't in Riverside, how can we bring them here?

Riverside Opportunities Ahead!

Riverside constantly surprises people—our city simply has qualities not found anywhere else in Southern California.

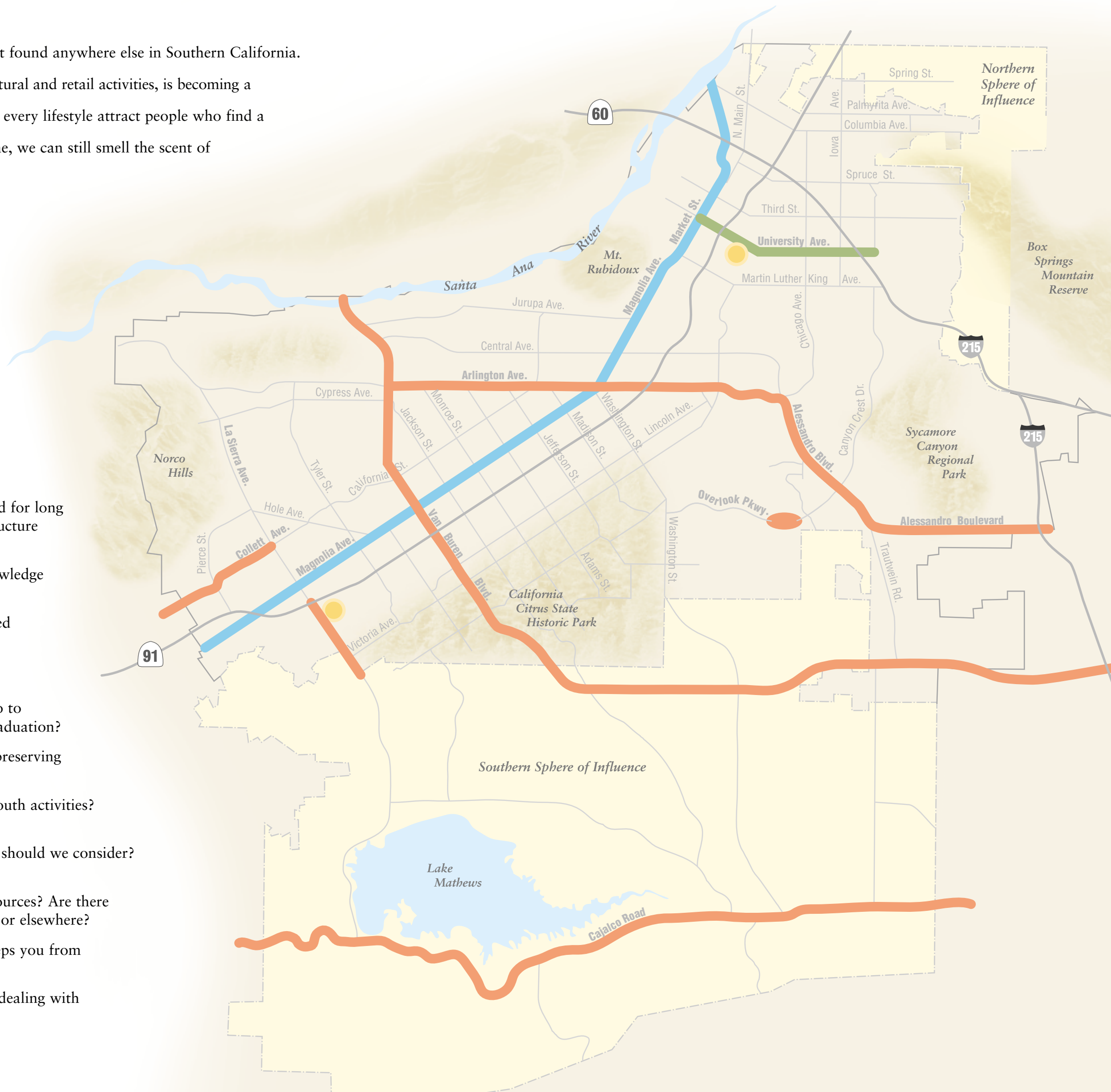
Our lovely downtown, with its distinctive architecture and growing cultural and retail activities, is becoming a mecca for the area. Reasonably priced housing and neighborhoods for every lifestyle attract people who find a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. And in the springtime, we can still smell the scent of orange blossoms.

But Riverside faces challenges ahead. During the next ten to twenty years, many more people will come here. Riverside and the entire Inland Empire are expecting tremendous growth. If properly managed and focused, growth will allow Riverside to expand economic and cultural opportunities for everyone—and maintain the qualities that have made the City such a desirable place.

There are many citywide questions we will consider when planning how best to respond to coming changes.

- What kinds of jobs do we need in Riverside to help reduce the need for long commutes out of town? How can we ensure that land and infrastructure are available to encourage new business development?
- How can Riverside attract and keep residents with high skills, knowledge and creative energy?
- What types of development will enhance and revitalize underutilized properties throughout the City? Should efforts be focused on particular streets or neighborhoods?
- Riverside’s colleges and universities are expected to grow rapidly. How can we best accommodate this growth? What can the City do to encourage college graduates to stay and work in Riverside after graduation?
- How should we revitalize and enhance the community while also preserving our rich heritage?
- Where do we need new libraries, community centers, parks, and youth activities? How will we pay for these?
- People want to move to Riverside. What different housing options should we consider? What are the best locations for new housing?
- How do we preserve and enhance Riverside’s great open space resources? Are there opportunities for new open space areas along the Santa Ana River or elsewhere?
- What transportation improvements are needed citywide? What keeps you from riding a bike, taking a bus, or walking to your destination?
- And, key to our success, how can we achieve our ambitions while dealing with limited resources and critical priorities?

Come participate in the September 13
Citizens’ Congress to help decide on solutions!



Key to Map

Some areas of Riverside present specific challenges and opportunities:

Traffic

Traffic levels citywide are expected to increase in the future. What can we do to ensure that Riverside’s roadways don’t get clogged with more cars? Some issues to consider:

- What are the impacts of widening streets like Alessandro Boulevard? How about Arlington Avenue? Van Buren Boulevard? La Sierra Avenue?
- If the two ends of Overlook Parkway were connected, how would traffic move through neighborhoods like Arlington Heights, Casa Blanca, Mission Grove and others?
- What if Collett Avenue were extended west to Corona? Would this improve area traffic circulation?
- The County plans to widen and improve Cajalco Road. What impacts will this have on the City?

Metrolink Stations

Can you envision a future where you walk a short distance from a train to home, stopping by a grocery store or dry cleaners on the way? More people can leave their cars at home if housing is built near our Metrolink stations. What types of development are best for these areas? Development of the San Jacinto spur line to Perris might mean new stations near Spruce Street and UCR. What should happen in these areas?

University Avenue

What can be done to improve University Avenue between UCR and Downtown? How do we best:

- Build housing at select locations?
- Encourage new restaurants, entertainment, and similar businesses?
- Ensure that any changes to this corridor enhance and revitalize the Eastside neighborhood?

Magnolia Avenue

Some portions of Magnolia Area need revitalization. What areas are most in need of help and what types of new development are best?

Sphere of Influence Area

The County of Riverside has approved a great deal of development here but much is not yet built. Since some of these areas may be annexed to Riverside in the future, how do we mold them to better fit within the City’s goals?

Your ideas will make the Difference!

Are you concerned about increasing traffic, crowded schools, more growth, safer neighborhoods, diverse and affordable housing, and needed community facilities?

On September 13, you can help preserve and enhance our quality of life in Riverside. Come to the Citizens' Congress and help make choices that will shape our City's future.

We're updating the General Plan, which will look ahead to 2025 and guide our City in making future decisions about growth and public investment. We encourage every person who lives or works in Riverside to participate in developing the Plan, at whatever level is most comfortable for you. The Plan will be based on the Visioning Riverside plan we developed together last summer (see front page) and will define policies to implement that vision.

"General Plans 101"—The Basics

Every City and County in California is required by law to have a General Plan for its future development. A General Plan addresses issues such as the location and density of different land uses, housing,

safety, education, economic development and growth, the arts, traffic and circulation, resource conservation, open space and noise.

The Plan must be updated as our community changes and new opportunities and challenges arise. Riverside's General Plan was last updated in 1994. Having a current and forward-looking General Plan will help protect property values, attract new jobs, create new housing, enhance neighborhoods and shopping areas, and ensure that our parks, schools, transportation systems and city services continue to meet our needs as our community grows.

How We're Doing It

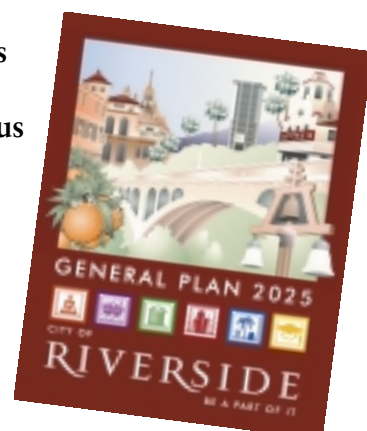
The General Plan update will link our community vision with the City's ongoing decisions about physical and economic development. The City has conducted extensive technical research into economic development, housing, job creation, transportation and environmental issues. City staff, technical experts, and Riverside residents and businesses are now working together on the Update. Work will also include a comprehensive zoning ordinance update (zoning determines how sections of land can be used).

The Plan will contain a map showing the kinds of development that may occur in different parts of the City, as well as policies and specific actions that will help Riverside make decisions in the future.

Riverside residents will have many more opportunities to participate in updating the plan in the coming months. First, we'll look forward to seeing you on September 13. In the meantime, continue to check out our website—we update it frequently.

For more information, visit:
www.ci.riverside.ca.us and click on the General Plan icon.

Or, contact Diane Jenkins
909-826-5625
dijenkins@ci.riverside.ca.us



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